

Serial No.: 09/539,927

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/151001
Intel Corporation: P7976REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending, with claims 1, 9, 14, and 18 being independent. Claims 1, 9, and 14-18 have been amended. No new matter has been added. Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Claims 1-8 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as allegedly being directed to non-statutory subject matter. This contention is obviated.

Independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the claimed method is a machine-implemented method, and the generated access filters "configure the network device to control network communications in the network device". Thus, claims 1-8 define actual functionality that provides utility in a real-world context, and hence are now clearly limited to a practical application in the technological arts. As such, these claims represent statutory subject matter. (See MPEP 2106(IV) (B) (2) (b) (ii).) In view of this, withdrawal of the rejection of claim 1-8 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph, as allegedly being based on a disclosure that is not enabling. This contention is respectfully traversed. Independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 18 have been amended to better articulate the nature of the claimed rule simplification. The

Serial No.: 09/539,927

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/151001
Intel Corporation: P7976

new claim language, which is discussed further below, has clear support in the specification and is enabled by the specification. (See the present specification, for example, at page 8, line 18 to page 9, line 37.) In view of this amendment to the claims, withdrawal of the 112 rejection of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

Claims 1, 2, 9, 14, 15 and 18-21 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gai et al. (US Patent No. 6,167,445) in view of Corl, Jr. et al. (US Patent No. 6,473,763). Claims 3-8, 10-13, 16 and 17 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over Gai-Corl as applied to claims 1, 2, 9, 14 and 15, and in further view of Flint et al. (US Patent No. 6,453,419). These contentions are respectfully traversed.

Corl cannot serve as a reference under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) for purposes of a 103 rejection because Corl's filing date in the U.S. is the same as the filing date of this application. Corl was filed on March 31, 2000, and this application was filed on March 31, 2000. Thus, Corl was not filed before the invention by Applicants and does not constitute prior art with respect to this patent application. Thus, withdrawal of the 103 rejections of claims 1-21 is respectfully requested.

Serial No.: 09/539,927

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/151001
Intel Corporation: P7976

Moreover, independent claims 1, 9, 14, and 18 have been amended to recite, "wherein a policy rule comprises one or more conditions and one or more values associated with the one or more conditions, the one or more conditions to be evaluated for network communications based on the one or more values, and said simplifying comprises eliminating at least one of any redundant conditions and values from the policy rule based at least in part on condition-type information of the one or more conditions". For example, entry values that are already implied by other entry values of a condition can be eliminated for some condition types based on the nature of the condition; and conditions that are irrelevant in view of other conditions, based on a known relationship between conditions, can be eliminated as well. (See the present specification, for example, at page 8, line 18 to page 9, line 37.) Thus, the subject matter of claims 1-21 has been further defined to clearly distinguish over the art of record. Additionally, claims 9 and 14-18 have been amended to correct certain informalities in these claims.

It is respectfully suggested for all of these reasons, that the current rejection is totally overcome; that none of the cited art teaches or suggests the features which are now claimed, and therefore that all of these claims should be in

Serial No.: 09/539,927

Attorney's Docket No.:10559/151001
Intel Corporation: P7976

condition for allowance. A formal notice of allowance is thus respectfully requested.

Additionally, it is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed. However, the absence of a reply to a specific issue or comment does not signify agreement with or concession of that issue or comment. Because the arguments made above may not be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.


Serial No.: 09/539,927

Attorney's Docket No.: 10559/151001
Intel Corporation: P7976

Please apply \$110.00 for the one month extension fee and
any other necessary charges or credits to Deposit Account
No. 06-1050 as well.

Respectfully submitted,

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